

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Toshio KAZAMA  
Assignee: NHK SPRING CO., LTD.  
Title: ELECTROCONDUCTIVE CONTACT PROBE  
Application No.: 10/510,657 Int'l. Filing Date: 04/16/2003  
Examiner: Jimmy Nguyen Group Art Unit: 2829  
Docket No.: AB-1387 US Confirmation No.: 9142

Irvine, California  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97 and §1.98, Applicants wish to call the following document(s) to the attention of the Examiner. These document(s) were cited in the corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-584742 Office Action dated July 29, 2008.

1. JP 2002-202321, including English Language Abstract

Form PTO/SB/08A listing the above-identified document(s) is enclosed.

The relevance of any non-English language documents cited herein is explained in the accompanying copy of the English language Abstract.

Citation of these documents shall not be construed as:

- (1) an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
- (2) a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
- (3) an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be material to patentability.

**Enclosed with this statement are the following:**

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 (*Substitute*). The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.
- ☒ A copy of each cited document as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (*except where otherwise indicated*).
- ☒ JP 2002-202321, including English language Abstract, of Reference cited in corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-584742 Office Action dated July 29, 2008.

Complete copies are not submitted of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), and copies are not submitted of documents already cited or submitted in a parent application from which benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 is claimed per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

***This statement should be considered because:***

- ☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:
  - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);  
-- OR --
  - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application;  
-- OR --
  - ☐ It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *on the merits*;  
-- OR --
  - ☐ It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *after the filing of an RCE under §1.114*.

whichever occurs last.

- ☐ Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (c) because:
- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action and before a Notice of Allowance or another action closing prosecution (whichever occurs first);
    - AND (check at least one of the following) --
  - ☐ (1) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
    - OR --
  - ☐ (2) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), each item of information contained in the information disclosure Statement was first cited in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☒ Although it may not qualify under subsections (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (d) because:
- (1) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), each item of information contained in the information disclosure Statement was first cited in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
    - AND --
  - (2) It is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
    - AND --
  - (3) It is filed on or before payment of the Issue Fee.
- ☒ **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the filing fee, or any additional fee(s), charge any underpayment of fee(s), or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-2257. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via EFS Web Transmission to the United States Patent Office, Mail Stop: IF on the date shown below:

Saundra L. Carr 9-15-08  
Saundra L. Carr Date of Signature

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